

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 OIC-02 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02

L-03 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 H-01 PRS-01 PA-01 HEW-04

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O R 201604Z JUN 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8409

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 4962

PASS IO FOR ASSISTANCE SECRETARY MAYNES AND DALLEY;  
LABOR FOR SECRETARY MARSHALL AND ILAB; S/IL FOR BOWIE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO PLAB

SUBJECT/ INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE - REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON  
APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS

REF: GENEVA 4894

1. SUMMARY: COMMITTEE REPORT WILL REACH PLENARY AFTERNOON  
OF JUNE 20. USDEL UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE WILL VOTE YES  
ON ACCEPTANCE OF REPORT; USDEL DOES NOT PLAN TO MAKE STATEMENT  
ON REPORT IN PLENARY. US WORKER REPRESENTATIVE (HICHEY) WILL  
SPEAK IN PLENARY. USDEL FEELS REPORT AND OVERALL PERFORMANCE OF  
COMMITTEE WAS MARKED IMPROVEMENT OVER PREVIOUS YEARS. DEPARTMENT  
MAY WISH TO CONSIDER PRESS GUIDANCE (SEE PARA 4 BELOW). END SUMMARY.

2. USDEL'S FAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF COMMITTEE STEMS FROM  
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FACT THAT ALL VOTES IN COMMITTEE THIS YEAR ON ISSUES OF  
CONCERN TO US WENT OUR WAY. THIS INCLUDES VOTE TO PUT  
ETHIOPIA ON SPECIAL LIST; THIS VOTE FRUSTRATED OBVIOUS  
POLITICAL EFFORT BY SOVIETS TO KEEP ETHIOPIA OFF THE  
LIST. SOVIET RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS (COE)  
AND TO CONFERENCE COMMITTEE QUESTIONS ON THEIR  
COMPLIANCE WITH CONVENTION AGAINST FORCED LABOR WAS

UNPRECEDENTED IN ITS BREADTH OF REPLY.

ALTHOUGH USDEL IS DISAPPOINTED THAT COMMITTEE RECORD WAS NOT AS FULL ON SOVIET COMPLIANCE WITH CONVENTION 87 (FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION) AS IT COULD HAVE BEEN, WE FEEL THAT FACT THAT COMMITTEE REPORT INCLUDES SPECIAL PARAGRAPHS FOR USSR UNDER CONVENTIONS 87 AND 29 (FORCED LABOR) IS SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT. FURTHERMORE COMMITTEE REPORT LEAVES QUESTIONS RAISED BY COE REPORT STANDING AND PART OF CONTINUOUS PROGRESS IN WHICH USSR GOVERNMENT CLEARLY ON THE DEFENSIVE.

3. AS IN PAST, USDEL DOES NOT INTEND TO COMMENT IN PLENARY ON THE COMMITTEE REPORT, BUT WILL LEAVE THIS TO US WORKER REPRESENTATIVE.

4. THE LANGUAGE OF SPECIAL PARAGRAPH IN THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON THE USSR (REFTEL) MAY NOT APPEAR TO THE LAYMAN TO BE AS CRITICAL AS IT IS. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO ALERT BELGRADE ON HOW TO READ THESE PARAGRAPHS IN CASE THE SOVIETS TRY TO TWIST IT TO THEIR PURPOSES AT THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE. PRESS GUIDANCE ON THIS POINT WOULD ALSO BE DESIRABLE. SORENSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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